

APPLICANT(S): FUDIM, Max et al.
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REMARKS

The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 11-21 and 28-31 have been allowed. Claims 6, 7, 11-21, 23 and 24 have been objected to, and claims 5, 9, 10, 22, 26 and 27 have been rejected. Claims 5, 6, 11, 22 and 24 have been amended.

Claims 6 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

The amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 7, 23 and 24, but stated that claims 6, 7, 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4, 11-21 and 28-31 were allowed.

Independent claims 5 and 22 have been amended including all the limitations of claims 6 and 23, respectively and claims 6 and 23 have been canceled. This amendment overcomes the rejections to independent claims 5 and 22. Each of claims 7 and 24 depends from one of claims 5 and 22, and is therefore likewise allowable.

Applicants request that the objections to claims 6, 7, 23 and 24 be withdrawn.

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Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11-21 because of alleged informalities. Claim 11 has been amended in order to cure these informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim, nor is it being made for reasons of patentability. The amended claim is not subject to the complete bar against the use of the Doctrine of Equivalents as outlined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kapushiki Co., Ltd. a/ka/ SMC Corporation and SMT Pneumatics, Inc.*

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Diepstraten et al. (cited 5,991,287). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Claims 5 and 22 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 23, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 22.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Diepstraten et al. in view of Liu et al. (cited 7,177,632 B2).

Claims 9 and 10 are dependent from allowable independent claim 5 and claims 26 and 27 are dependent from allowable independent claim 22; therefore claims 9, 10, 26 and 27 are likewise allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 10, 26 and 27.

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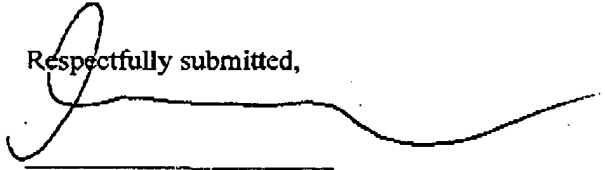
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the pending claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: June 3, 2008

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